

2. (Amended) Combination according to claim 1, in which the strain of lactic acid bacteria in component (b) is biologically pure *Lactobacillus brevis* DSM 11988, or mutants or derivatives thereof.

3. (Amended) Combination according to claim 1, in which the ratio of the number of bacteria in component (a) to the number of bacteria in component (b) is from 1:100 to 100:1.

6. (Amended) Combination according to claim 1 comprising from 1×10^2 to 5×10^{11} bacteria of component (a) and from 1×10^2 to 5×10^{11} bacteria of component (b).

15. (Amended) The combination according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is *Lactobacillus crispatus* and component (b) is *Lactobacillus brevis*.

16. (Amended) The combination according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is *Lactobacillus salivarius* and component (b) is *Lactobacillus brevis*.

18. (Amended) The combination according to claim 15, wherein the ratio of the number of bacteria in component (a) to the number of bacteria in component (b) is 1:1.

Cancel claims 12-14 and replace with new claims 19-22.

19. (New) A method of prophylaxis or treating infectious or inflammatory conditions caused by bacteria, virus or fungi, comprising administering a combination of lactic acid bacteria comprising:

(a) a first component consisting of at least one strain of H_2O_2 -producing lactic acid bacteria; and

(b) a second component consisting of at least one strain of arginine-utilizing lactic acid bacteria, wherein component (a) is selected from the group consisting of the strains of the

species *Lactobacillus crispatus*, *Lactobacillus salivarius* and *Lactobacillus casei*, and component (b) is selected from the group consisting of the strains of the species *Lactobacillus Brevis*, *Lactobacillus gasseri* and *Lactobacillus fermentum*, provided that when component (a) is *Lactobacillus casei*, component (b) is not *Lactobacillus gasseri* - or *Lactobacillus fermentum* and when component (a) is *Lactobacillus crispatus*, component (b) is not *Lactobacillus fermentum*.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19 wherein the combination is applied to the mouth, vagina, urethra, nose, eyes or ears.

21. (New) The method according to claim 19, in which the infections and inflammatory conditions are selected from the group consisting of gingivitis, periodontitis, mucositis, stomatitis caused by drugs and/or physical agents, Behçet's syndrome, diakeratosis of the oral cavity, glossitis, sore throat, sialadenitis, sialolithiasis, pemphigus, *Lichen planus*, Sjögren's syndrome, vaginosis, vaginitis, urethritis, prostatitis, proctitis, otitis, conjunctivitis, rhinitis, sinusitis, leucoplakia, aphthae, herpes, and infections of *Helicobacter pylori* in the oral cavity.

22. (New) The method according to claim 19 in which the combination is applied to the oral cavity as a deodorant, anti-inflammatory, anti-caries or anti-plaque agent.